

LOCAL ITEMS.

WEATHER PROBABILITIES.—War Department Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Washington, D. C., April 12, 1876.—10:30 a. m. The rest of Wednesday, in the South Atlantic States, stationary pressure and temperature, partly cloudy weather, and possibly occasional light rains.

CITY COUNCIL.

Both Boards of the City Council met last night.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

After reading the minutes, Mr. Smoot arose to a privileged question, and said that at the last meeting he sent in his resignation, and the Board refused to accept it. His reason was, that he was much of the time absent from the city, and could not properly attend to committee duties. Since the Board refused to accept his resignation, they would have to put up with his shortcomings. He withdrew the resignation.

The resolution to employ an expert to examine the books of the Corporation officers, coming in from the Common Council.

Mr. McKee presented a statement of financial affairs, &c., by the Finance Committee, and moved to lay the resolution on the table as unnecessary.

Dr. Johnson said that the resolution implied, if it did not make a direct charge of dishonesty, on the part of some officers of the Corporation, and while he did not believe that any of them were guilty, it was due to those officers that the resolution should be sent back to the other Board with a request that if any member knew of anything wrong, he should make it known. He thought the motion to lay on the table a bad way to settle it.

Mr. McKee suggested that the gentleman prepare such a resolution.

Mr. Moore said the Finance Committee spent a whole week and made a thorough examination, as much so as any expert could do.

Dr. Johnson then drew up a resolution embodying his views as stated, and it was passed. The resolution as to furnishing hose for the Fire Company, coming in from the Common Council.

Dr. Johnson said the Fire Wardens were a very liberal set of people, and he had no objections to hearing their opinion. Action concurred in.

On the resolution to give permission to the Southern and Atlantic Telegraph Company to put up four new poles.

Mr. Downham thought the consent of the property owners should be gotten first. Dr. Johnson said it was too late to discriminate, and he thought it very small in the Council to refuse this permission to a new company. If the company was taxed they must get even some way by adding to the cost of messages.

Mr. Downham stated the action of the telegraph companies in putting on the ten cent tax. He said the manager of the Southern and Atlantic Company had told him that his company was forced into the arrangement by the Western Union Company, but his explanation was not satisfactory. He (the speaker) would oppose all further privileges to telegraph companies as long as this tax remained.

Dr. Johnson re-stated the position of the companies as to the tax, saying that they were obliged to impose it in order to make their business pay.

Mr. McKee said there was too much asking of property owners, and instead of the S. A. telegraph street track, he opposed the asking of consent. No consent had been asked in the case of the Western Union Company and a new should be in this. He wished to have no telegraph, steamboats or railroads either.

Mr. Downham claimed that he had rights which the Board was bound to respect, and certainly had no right to plant posts in front of his house without his consent. Mr. Moore favored giving the right to the Southern Company that had been given to the Western Union.

Mr. Downham's motion to require consent of the property owners, was lost.

Mr. Johnson moved to grant the request without condition. Carried.

The resolution to sell the contents of the market, coming up.

Mr. McKee criticized the actions of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, especially in regard to charging the city rent for offices, &c. He thought it a great piece of impudence. He thought the salary of the Clerk of the Market should be paid by the Commissioners, also the cost of cleaning up the market square.

Mr. Janney (Mr. McKee to the chair), said he was surprised at the remarks of Mr. McKee. He defended the action of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, and said that their only desire was to reduce the debt, and hence these charges were made. He thought the practice of allowing green grocers all over town to sell meats, was working ruin to the market house, for the butchers and hucksters declared their intention to leave, unless some action was taken.

Mr. McKee reiterated his objections to paying the rents, and hoped the next Council would not do so.

Mr. Moore agreed with Mr. McKee.

Mr. Downham called up the act in regard to reducing the price of gas and prescribing the mode of collection of gas bills. He said many of the best customers of the Gas Works were giving up the use of gas because they could not afford it. Some action should be taken at once.

Mr. Downham moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Mr. Moore moved to refer to the Committee on Light. Carried.

Mr. Smoot offered a resolution reducing the price of gas to \$2.50 per thousand feet. After some discussion the resolution was passed.

Dr. Johnson offered a resolution submitting the late amendments to the charter on the 20th day of April.

In off time the resolution Dr. Johnson said: Mr. President—I rise for the purpose of offering a resolution fixing a day for the ratification or rejection, by the qualified voters of the city, of the amendments to the present city charter, recently passed by the Legislature. There is no just cause of complaint against the people who took the matter of the amendment of the charter into their own hands. Year after year I have told the members of the City Council that a majority of the people had determined to have the charter amended, and time and again, by resolution, I have invited the Council to give its attention to the people's demands on the subject, but my appeals, as well as warnings, have been alike disregarded, and I repeat, that there is no excuse in connection of the action of the people in reference to the question, and what principal will refuse the right to appoint his own agents? Had the members of the City Council cheerfully responded to the cause of the amendments which the people desired, I have no doubt, that the labor of selecting and electing municipal officers would have been fairly and satisfactorily divided between the people and the City Council, but this advantage, the members of the Council steadily and persistently refused to avail themselves of, and it is not surprising that the people became weary in their expectations of relief through the Council, and determined to appeal directly to the Legislature, and that that appeal was answered by an amendment to the charter which restored to the people the inherent right of electing every officer and clerk known to the municipal government of the city. The natural right of the people to elect their own officers to govern them, is by this amendment, restored directly to them in all the entirety of original significance without abridging the rights of a single voter, and if, after a fair trial, this mode of electing officers shall be found to be too cumbersome, it will be

no difficult matter for the people to say to their representatives in Council amend again the charter, and leave to us the election of such officers as deal directly with us, and elect by the Council such officers as do directly the bidding of the Council's acts. For myself I have always believed that the safest depository of the elective power is in the will and pleasure of the people, and if the selections which they sometimes make are not always as good as might have been made the error will be found to consist not in their lack of intelligence, judgment or virtue, but rather in their excess of tenderness of feeling aroused by the false representations of frequently unworthy applicants for office, and if now and then they elect a candidate to office who proves himself to be faithless and worthless, it is an event which they could neither foresee nor prevent, and they usually make no hesitancy in asking him to resign or in putting him out of office at the first opportunity of the next election. Therefore I pause not in concluding that three thousand people are more apt to make a good selection of officers for the government of the city than a majority of twenty-four Councilmen, but this as it may, we are bound as members of the City Council to appoint a day for the submission of the amendment which the Legislature made to the charter for ratification or rejection by the qualified voters of the city. That amendment consists in nothing more than an act of the General Assembly to amend section eight of the present charter. Every sentence and every section from section first to section thirty-six of the present charter, except section eight, stand now as they did before the Legislature took action at all on the subject. The election of the Corporation officers is the people's business, and I am willing to let them decide the question, and who so lost to pride in a government where all laws are based upon the consent of the governed will be bold enough to say that he and his fellow citizens have not a natural right far above all conventionality to recover that interest which ignorant or corrupt agents may have placed in abeyance, or to restore to themselves those functions which the cunning law knavishly endeavored to accumulate to their own aggrandizement by fixing their greedy grasp upon an imperfect act, adopting thereby to meet a reward for their treachery in the spoils of war or distant personal or pecuniary gain.

Mr. Moore said while he favored elections by the people, he thought the amendments an ambitious and that they had better go back to the Legislature for ratification.

Dr. Johnson contended that the Council were bound to submit the question; they had no discretion about it. The law was perfectly plain; he was proceeding to read the act when Mr. McKee asked if it was an official copy, and had the name of the Clerk of the House of Delegates to it?

Dr. Johnson said the paper was not official, but the gentleman knew that it was the law. Mr. McKee said he knew nothing about it.

Dr. Johnson said ignorance was no excuse. He proceeded at length to state the action of Council in 1871, and to demand the passage of the resolution.

The resolution was lost—yeas 4, noes 4. Mr. Moore stated that his reason for voting no, was that no one understood the bill, and he wanted light on the subject.

Mr. McKee said he voted no because he felt like it, and was opposed to the resolution. Mr. Simpson had told him that he knew nothing about the bill, and thought it would be returned to the next General Assembly.

Mr. Neale thought Mr. McKee misunderstood Mr. Simpson about returning the matter to the Legislature.

After some further colloquy between Messrs. Neale and McKee.

Dr. Johnson again supported the resolution which declared lost, and in the course of his remarks told gentlemen who had voted against it that that vote was their political death knell. This remark was received with derisive laughter by members on the other side, whereupon the Chair wrapped up order and called for the regular order of business.

The resolution for the appointment of an expert coming back from the Common Council.

Mr. Johnson said the Council wanted to elect all of the officers, and then had had to investigate their honesty. The officers elected by the people had proved honest, some of those elected by the Council had not.

Mr. McKee moved to lay the whole matter on the table. Carried.

The Board then adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

With April the Council meetings open at 8 o'clock instead of 7 1/2 o'clock, and at the former hour last evening a quorum was present. In the absence of the President Mr. Broders was called to the chair.

The earlier portion of the business was transacted without debate or unusual incident. When the petition of the fresh meat dealers (other than butchers) remonstrating against confining the sale of fresh meat to butchers was read, the chairman, who was reading the petition, mistook a rather difficult chirography "we hope," and read it "one hog," which provoked considerable merriment.

A number of bills for articles furnished the city were passed.

Mr. Beckham called attention to the fact one of the bills presented to night showed that while the city paid \$4 per cord for wood for the poor, \$5 per cord was paid for wood for the rich. He thought that hereafter the wood for both poor house and jail be included under one contract.

Mr. Harlow explained that one part was contracted for early in the season, and the other at a later date when rates had advanced.

Mr. Smoot was inclined to think that the per diem received by the City Sergeant for each prisoner included the charge for wood. He suggested that an examination of the matter be made.

The subject was referred.

A resolution by the Board of Aldermen, non-concurring in Council resolution for the appointment of an expert to examine the books of officers of the city, and requesting any member of Council who knew a reason for such action to communicate the same to the Council, to meet on Monday next, was adopted.

The subject was referred.

A bill to lower the rate of gas to \$2.50 per thousand feet coming up.

Mr. Smith thought that it should be postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Hughes urged that delay cost too much. Every day the city was losing gas consumers at the present rate, and some of them would never come back after they made preparation to live with oil. The matter was passed over, and there being only eleven members present and there being required to pass a bill on its first introduction.

The subject was twice brought up afterwards: by Mr. Downham's bill, from the Aldermen, which Council concurred in, postponing; and again by Aldermen's resolution lowering the rate to \$2.50. On this resolution coming in considerable discussion occurred.

Mr. Hughes did not think a resolution could be passed, and said that if a majority could pass a bill after a veto a fortiori, they could pass a bill before.

Mr. Evans did not think that was the section

of the charter which referred to the subject. Mr. Hughes' difficulty was not in reference to the vote, but whether a resolution could be passed.

Mr. Hopkins said that the difference between a bill and a resolution was that one required the signature of the Mayor and the other did not. Mr. Evans read the section of the charter which required a three-fourths vote to pass a bill on the night of its introduction.

Finally, the subject was laid aside, and after some routine business, the Board adjourned.

I. O. O. F.—The Grand Lodge of Virginia, I. O. O. F., resumed business at 3 p. m. yesterday.

A call of the lodges was made, when several matters of importance to the various localities and the Order throughout the jurisdiction were presented and appropriately referred.

A report from a special committee appointed at the last session on the case of Daniel Seizer was submitted.

P. G. Robert P. Button, on the part of Lehigh Lodge, No. 17, presented a substitute and protest.

The consideration of the subject was postponed until this morning, at 10 o'clock.

The remainder of the session was consumed in arranging for the reception of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

A recess was had until 7:30 o'clock, to meet at Sarepta Hall, at which time the Grand Lodge was called to order, when the officers and members of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia were formally received with all due honor and respect.

A brief welcoming speech was made by Grand Master Courtney, and according to the arrangements the Grand Lodge was closed, when the doors were opened for the admission of the whole membership.

The Grand Master of Virginia called the assembly to order, and proceeded to welcome the officers and members of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in a speech replete with patriotism and fraternal feelings.

The reply of L. B. Aiken, Grand Master of the District of Columbia, was chaste and appropriate. Before concluding he extended a fraternal invitation to the Grand Lodge of Virginia to visit the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to night.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia and the brethren of this city will leave here on the 6 o'clock boat and return about midnight.

The Hon. M. J. Durham, Grand Secy; Theo. A. Ross, Assistant Grand Secretary; and Charles Rawlings, Grand Representative of Maryland, accompanied the Washington brethren.

Grand Master Courtney introduced the Grand Secy to the meeting, who for more than an hour held the brethren as with a charm, while he poured forth a full and elaborate dissertation on the beauties of Odd Fellowship, the imperative duty of the members to observe their obligations not only to each other, but to the world at large. His scathing rebuke and just arraignment and condemnation of the two great curses of humanity—drunkenness and gambling, was a master-piece of eloquence and logic, if ever, excelled. Would that the world could hear, or be assembled and drunk in his words of warning and of wisdom. It was a speech the influence of which will long be felt by every brother who was fortunate enough to hear it.

Brief remarks were then made by Brothers Ross, of New Jersey; Fitzgibbon, of Virginia; Stuart, of the District of Columbia; Points, of Virginia; Galloway, of the District of Columbia; Robinson, of Virginia, and Greis, of Virginia.

The meeting was then closed by singing the closing ode, Professor Daniel, of Washington, leading.

The visitors were accompanied by the corps of uniformed Patriarchs, commanded by Maj. Dunn.

The Washington brethren were escorted to the wharf, where they embarked on the "City of Washington" and returned home.

The Grand Lodge was called to order at 9 o'clock, this morning, and resumed its session.

An appeal was presented from Jefferson Lodge, No. 4, and properly referred.

The Committee on the State of the Order submitted several interesting reports, which were considered and disposed of.

The report of the special committee in the case of Daniel Seizer was considered.

A substitute was presented and adopted.

A recess until 3 p. m. was taken.

MAUNDY THURSDAY.—To-morrow is known in the Catholic Church as Maundy Thursday, so called from the Latin word *Mandatum*, or the Commandment, which is the beginning of the office of the "Washing of the feet," which is performed in Catholic countries on this day.

It is also called in the rubric "Feria quinta in Coena Domini," or the Thursday of the Lord's Supper, because on this day Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. All of the services are expressive of sorrow, except the Mass, when the altars are ornamented with joy at white vestments used as indications of joy.

The institution of the Blessed Sacrament. The "Gloria in Excelsis," which has been omitted in Masses of the time since the beginning of Lent, is used on this day, and it is sung the bells peal forth with tones of joy. After the bell peal forth with tones of joy, they are rung no end of this hymn, however, to honor our Lord until the same time of Christ during His passion, and as a mark of the sorrow of the passion, and as a death of her spouse. In all Catholic Churches, on this day, two hosts are consecrated, one of which is consumed by the priest in the Mass of the day, and the other reserved in procession with much solemnity to the altar of the church, where it is kept until the next day. After the Mass, the main altar of the church is stripped of all ornaments and coverings to typify the stripping of Christ of His garments before His crucifixion, and His exceeding desolation. The ceremony of washing the feet, which is seldom performed in this country, except in monasteries, consists of the Bishop, or superior of the church washing the feet of the interior, in memory of the example of Christ to His disciples on the night before His passion, and as a mark of humility. In St. Mary's Church, in this city, the services, which will consist only of the Mass and procession of the Blessed Sacrament, will commence at eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

SHEEP STEALING.—A negro man was seen in the stock yard at West End, about half past eleven o'clock, last night, and on being questioned by Mr. George Young, said that he was hired by the owner of the stock to watch and see that no dogs troubled the sheep. Mr. Young being convinced that the man was trying to deceive him, told him he must go to the hotel and prove that he was employed as watchman for the night. This he consented to, and on reaching the hotel the negro suggested that they should go around to the kitchen and call for the gentleman who owned the sheep. His suggestion was adopted, but when they reached the door that leads to the kitchen the example ran through it and into the garden. As soon as possible Mr. Young went after him with a six shooter, but the night was so dark he could not see him but heard him running, and shot in the direction of the sound. On examination of the place the sheep jumped the fence. At an early hour this morning two sheep were taken from the pen by an unknown thief. The negro is supposed to be a man who drives cattle from the Orange depot to West End, and being well acquainted with the premises made his escape easily.

THE CASE OF JENNIE DEEVERS.—As the facts in the case of Jennie Deever, the young white girl convicted yesterday in the Corporation Court of this city for the theft of \$25 from W. Windsor, and her term fixed in the penitentiary at five years, become more generally known, and understood, a large share of sympathy is being expressed for the condition of the unfortunate woman, who has since her conviction become nearly distracted over the fate of her little child, which will, in the event its mother is sent to the State penitentiary, fall into stranger hands. The prisoner's only hope now rests upon the decision of Judge Lowe, who will hear the argument upon the motion for a new trial on Saturday next. A number of charitably-disposed gentlemen have interested themselves to the extent of subscribing money to pay her attorney, Mr. Burke, an additional fee for arguing the motion for a new trial.

CORPORATION COURT.—Judge E. M. Loece presiding:—Continuation of YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.—Michael Smith vs. City Council of Alexandria; demurrer to declaration sustained, and case dismissed.

To Day.—Commonwealth vs. Daniel Washington; petty larceny; appeal from a justice; jury and verdict of acquittal.

Com. vs. Charles Thompson alias Thomas; for entering a dwelling house with intent to commit larceny; jury, verdict of guilty and three years in the penitentiary.

Com. vs. Thomas King; same offense; plea of guilty, and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

Commonwealth vs. Charles Thompson, alias Thomas; petty larceny; nolle prosequi entered. Court adjourned until to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

FISH REPORT.—Receipts at Fishtown today were much smaller than yesterday, except those of shad. Business, however, is tolerably brisk, with an encouraging prospect. There have been received since the last report 7,100 shad, 38,500 herrings, 1,400 bunches of rock and perch, and 1,750 tapers. Shad sold from \$13 to \$15 per hundred; herrings from \$10.50 to \$11 per thousand; rock from 10 to 25 cents a piece; white perch from 5 to 10 cents per bunch, and tapers 1 cent a piece.

POLICE REPORT.—The only cases at Police Headquarters, today, were those of Henry Dudley, a colored boy, for fighting on the streets, who was dismissed with a reprimand, and Mary E. Johnson, arrested by officer Nightingale, on suspicion of stealing clothing from Mrs. Rose Brown, who was locked up for examination.

Ten lodgers were accommodated at the station-house last night.

THE WEATHER.—The spring seems to have set in earnest, and to-day was as bright and balmy a day as could be expected or wished for. During last night two light showers fell, and this morning about eleven o'clock still another, all of which were very refreshing and agreeable. Fires and stoves have been treated to day with contempt, and open doors and windows are becoming fixtures.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The Union prayer-meeting will be held in the Baptist Church at 8 o'clock to-night.

The County Republican Executive Committee will meet on Friday next, at 4 p. m.

Quite a small fleet of boats arrived today, but most of them passed on by to Georgetown.

Among the visitors in town today was ex-Alderman John A. Saxon, colored, now a resident of New York.

Capt. James Smith, who is fixing the Arkendale shore this season, sent up a fine lot of rock yesterday morning, one of which found its way to this office.

The choir of St. Mary's (Catholic) Church are practicing Borden's Mass in F for the Easter services at that church, when that Mass will be sung for the first time in this city.

The grand ball of Mr. Vernon Lodge, I. O. R. M., will be given to-night.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 12.—Stocks active and lower. Money 4 and 5. Gold 131. Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat quiet and steady. Corn scarce and firm.

BALTIMORE, April 12.—Virginia sixes, old, 30; do. consolidated 69; middling 124. Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat strong and steady; No. 2 Western red nominal; Pennsylvania 155-156; Maryland red 130-135; do. white 140-160. Corn—Southern firm and steady; do. Western white fairly active and steady; do. Southern mixed 64-65; do. yellow 64-65; Western mixed 64-65; do. white and unchanged. Rye steady 64-65. Oats unchanged. Provisions quiet and unchanged. Pork 23-25. Lard quiet and unchanged. Butter active and steady; Western extra 35-37; do. first 30-33. Coffee steady and firm; Rio carnos 16-19; jobbing 16-19. Sugar firm and demand good at 9 1/2-10. Whiskey quiet at \$1 1/2.

It has been determined that the Government has the right to sell Harper's Ferry, and the sale will take place in June.

They say business is dull; sugar and coffee are selling slowly. Not so with Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup; we understand our druggists can hardly supply the demand.

CHAMON SKINS. Upham's Best Cure, Allister's All Healing Ointment, Lubin's 4711 Cologne, Cox's and Cox's Gelsoline, King's Mustard, Canby Seed, Pure Glycerine, Pure Gum Tartar, Husband's Mustard, Refined Cream Camphor, etc., just received by

11 UNLAUNDERED SHIRTS; Wanted, extra Cotton; good Linen; warranted equal, not superior, to anything to be had at the price. Also our regular Unlaundered Shirts at \$1.50. A comparison of these with any others sold demonstrates their cheapness.

INCREASED DEMAND.—Monday, March 20th, 1876—20 dozen more of the B. & M. UNLAUNDERED SHIRTS received this day. Price \$1.50. H. B. HOOMES. D. E. BRANDEAU, A. Morehead. No 109 King street, Alexandria, Va.

2 HDS PORTO RICO MOLASSES, suitable for baking, just received; also prime New Orleans and Porto Rico Molasses, Syrup and Strained Honey, for sale by

J. C. & E. MILBURN.

SMALL HAMS.—Received to-day, March 30, 1876, another invoice of small hams of the best quality, weighing from 6 to 10 lbs. each.

5 BLS. PURE CIDER VINEGAR, received and for sale by

DAVEY & HARMON.

PRIME VALENCIA ORANGES just received by

J. C. & E. MILBURN.

500 POUNDS PURE BUCK WHEAT FLOUR received to day by

J. C. & E. MILBURN.

PRIME POTOMAC SHAD AND ROE HERRING for sale by

J. C. & E. MILBURN.

POTOMAC FAMILY ROE HERRINGS, in barrels and half barrels, for sale by

R. B. LAWSON & CO.

ENGLISH TOILET SETS, handsomely decorated, at

E. J. MILLER & CO., 65 King street.

DRIED CHERRIES, Peaches and Apples for sale by

J. C. & E. MILBURN.

TELEGRAPH NEWS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 12, 1876.—The Senate was occupied with the bill for the sale and distribution of public documents, which was discussed and passed.

The bill in relation to third-class mail matter was then taken up and discussed by Mr. Sargent, Mr. Hamlin and others.

After the Journal had been read in the House of Representatives J. T. Waiter, successor of Mr. Starkweather, of Connecticut, was sworn in.

The Speaker then laid before the House a communication from the Sergeant-at-Arms, setting forth that he had been served by the U. S. Marshal of the District of Columbia with a habeas corpus for Hallett Kibbourn, and asking the direction of the House.

On motion of Mr. New the matter was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary with directions to report on the subject at any time, not later than Saturday next.

The House concurred in the Senate amendments for restoring work and pay to the Printing Bureau. So the bill was passed.

Mr. Cox introduced a bill for extending the hospitalities of the United States to the Emperor of Brazil and the President of Peru, and appropriating money for the same.

Mr. Holman objected, and the matter was referred.

The House then proceeded with the call of committees.

After considering and passing several bills from the Committee on Public Lands the House took up the Deficiency Appropriation bill, which was considered by sections.

THE KILBOURN HABEAS CORPUS.

In the Supreme Court of the District Sergeant-at-Arms Thompson appeared this morning, and by consent the time for a return to the writ of habeas corpus in the case of Hallett Kibbourn was postponed until Saturday next.

RETURNED.

Messrs. Hutton and Douglas, of Virginia, who have been absent from their seats for some days, have returned.

Acquitted.

RICHMOND, Va., April 12.—John A. Warshaw, the alleged proprietor of the gambling house, in which Judge Stevens won money, who fled from Richmond to Washington, D. C., returned to the city, gave himself up, and this morning, in the Hustings Court, was tried